

DETAILED ACTION

Notice of Amendment

1. In response to the amendment filed on 08/08/2008, amended claim(s) 1, 11, and 30, and new claim(s) 31 is/are acknowledged. The following is/are set forth:

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Matthew Newboles on 09/23/08.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1 should read: 1. A device for determining a pressure exerted within an anatomical structure, said device comprising:

a) a sensor comprising an encapsulated member having (i) a membrane enclosing an encapsulated volume therewithin and (ii) a body of supportive material disposed within the membrane that substantially fills and defines the encapsulated volume, the sensor having a link extending therefrom, said sensor being positionable within the anatomical structure, said sensor being operative to compress against said anatomical structure, measure pressure exerted within said anatomical structure,

produce a signal representative of the pressure exerted within said anatomical structure and transmit said signal through said link; and

b) a monitor coupled to said link for receiving said signal generated by said sensor, said monitor being operative to provide a quantifiable indication of the compressive force exerted within said anatomical structure[.],

wherein the supportive material is compressive foam disposed within the encapsulated member, said compressive foam being operatively transitional between a first expansive state when a first baseline amount of pressure is applied thereto and a second compressed state whereby said foam compresses to assume a configuration having a reduced volume corresponding to a second higher amount of pressure applied upon the external surface of said encapsulated member.

Claims 2-7 should read: (Cancelled).

Claim 8 should read: 8. The device of Claim [6] 1 wherein said foam is operative to incrementally decrease in volume when a correspondingly incremental increase in pressure is applied to the external surface of said encapsulated member.

Claim 9 should read: (Cancelled).

Claim 10 should read: 10. The device of Claim [7] 1 wherein said member is encapsulated within a balloon-type sack.

Claim 11 should read: 11. A device for determining an amount of pressure exerted between a first anatomical structure and a second anatomical structure, said device comprising:

a) a sensor configured to be interposed between said first and second anatomical structures, said sensor comprising an encapsulated member having (i) a membrane enclosing an encapsulated volume therewithin and (ii) a body of supportive material disposed within the membrane that substantially fills and defines the encapsulated volume, the sensor having a link extending therefrom, said sensor being compressible against said first anatomical structure and said second anatomical structure, wherein said sensor is operative to measure the compressive force exerted between said first anatomical structure and said second anatomical structure, produce a signal representative of the compressive force and transmit said signal through said link; and

b) a monitor coupled to said link for receiving said signal generated by said sensor, said monitor being operative to provide a quantifiable indication of the compressive force between said first anatomical structure and said second anatomical structure[.],

wherein the supportive material is compressive foam disposed within the encapsulated member, said compressive foam being operatively transitional

between a first expansive state when a first baseline amount of pressure is applied thereto and a second compressed state whereby said foam compresses to assume a configuration having a reduced volume corresponding to a second higher amount of pressure applied upon the external surface of said encapsulated member.

Claims 12-17 should read: (Cancelled).

Claim 18 should read: 18. The device of Claim [16] 11 wherein said foam is operative to incrementally decrease in volume when a correspondingly incremental increase in pressure is applied to the external surface of said member.

Claim 19 should read: (Cancelled).

Claim 20 should read: 20. The device of Claim [17] 11 wherein said member is encapsulated within a balloon-type sack.

Claims 21-29 should read: (Cancelled).

Claim 30 should read: 30. A device for determining a pressure exerted within an anatomical structure, said device comprising:

a sensor comprising an encapsulated member having (i) a membrane enclosing an encapsulated volume therewithin and (ii) a body of supportive material disposed within the membrane that substantially fills and defines the encapsulated volume, the sensor being positionable within an anatomical structure, wherein said sensor operative to compress against said anatomical structure, measure pressure exerted within said anatomical structure, and produce a signal representative of the pressure exerted within said anatomical structure,

wherein said sensor is adapted to be coupled to a monitor for receiving said signal generated by said sensor, said monitor being operative to provide a quantifiable indication of the compression force exerted within said anatomical structure~~[.], and~~

wherein the supportive material is compressive foam disposed within the encapsulated member, said compressive foam being operatively transitional between a first expansive state when a first baseline amount of pressure is applied thereto and a second compressed state whereby said foam compresses to assume a configuration having a reduced volume corresponding to a second higher amount of pressure applied upon the external surface of said encapsulated member.

Claim 31 should read: 31. A device for determining an amount of pressure exerted between a first anatomical structure and a second anatomical structure, said device comprising:

a sensor configured to be interposed between said first and second anatomical structures, said sensor comprising an encapsulated member having (i) a membrane enclosing an encapsulated volume therewithin and (ii) a body of supportive material disposed within the membrane that substantially fills and defines the encapsulated volume, said sensor being compressible against said first anatomical structure and said second anatomical structure, wherein said sensor is operative to measure the compressive force exerted between said first anatomical structure and said second anatomical structure, and produce a signal representative of the compressive force,

wherein said sensor is adapted to be coupled to a monitor for receiving said signal generated by said sensor, said monitor being operative to provide a quantifiable indication of the compressive force between said first anatomical structure and said second anatomical structure[.], and

wherein the supportive material is compressive foam disposed within the encapsulated member, said compressive foam being operatively transitional between a first expansive state when a first baseline amount of pressure is applied thereto and a second compressed state whereby said foam compresses to assume a configuration having a reduced volume corresponding to a second higher amount of pressure applied upon the external surface of said encapsulated member.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1, 8, 10, 11, 18, 20, 30, and 31 are allowed.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JEFFREY G. HOEKSTRA whose telephone number is (571)272-7232. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 8am to 5pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Max Hindenburg can be reached on (571)272-4726. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/J.H./
Jeff Hoekstra
Examiner, Art Unit 3736

/Max Hindenburg/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3736